

Docket No. 5317

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John S. HENDRICKS et al.

Examiner: A. Koenig

Serial No.: 09/556,875

Art Unit: 2611

Filed: April 18, 2000

FOR: DIGITAL BROADCAST PROGRAM BILLING

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2004

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT


Sir:

In response to the June 28, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-20 drawn to an authorization code in a broadcast system, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-37 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and examination of the entire application should be made without serious burden. See M.P.E.P. §803, which states that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the above-identified application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 20, 2004



John Harrop
Reg. No. 41,817
ANDREWS KURTH LLP
1701 Pennsylvania Avenue
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
Voice: 202-662-2700
Fax: 202-662-2739